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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

RENT REDUCTION, HEAVY RAINFALL, GOVERNMENT AID,  
MAKE AGRICULTURAL PICTURE BRIGHT

HUPEH PROMOTES RENT REDUCTION -- Hankow Ch'ang Chiang Jih-pao, 9 Apr 50

Wu-ch'ang -- Hupeh Province has taken rent reduction as its central theme and is extending reduction provisions throughout the province. As of the end of March 1950, the movement had been applied to more than 70 percent of the area. It is estimated that reduction will be substantially completed by mid-May 1950. In the meantime, the province is going ahead with plans for spring planting.

According to incomplete data, a total of 1,500,000 piculs of foodstuff accrued to Hopeh farmers as a result of rent reduction, exclusive of other commodities and benefits. At the same time, a large number of the unscrupulous landlords have been ousted and in some areas 50 percent of the villages have held democratic elections and set up people's governments.

Other reorganization has also taken place. Of the 14,000 villages, more than 6,000 have established agricultural associations having an aggregate membership of 920,000 farmers. A provincial agricultural delegates conference has already been convened and a provincial agricultural aid association has been established. In addition, farmers are being encouraged to organize militia units, become Communist Party members, and establish New Democracy Youth Corps units.

The rent-reduction movement began the latter part of 1949 when the provincial government ordered a province-wide mobilization of the farmers to unite behind the rent-reduction program and in opposition to the landlords. Successful propaganda and other countermeasures by landlords, however, created mistaken concepts and deviations on the part of a large number of cadre, necessitating the convocation of mass activities conferences throughout the province. Policies and past experiences were reviewed at these conferences to eradicate irregular tendencies and to stimulate the development of the rent-reduction program.

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The next step, taken the latter part of January 1950, was to set up agricultural delegates assemblies and all-circles people's delegates assemblies, on a wide scale, as a means of correcting deviations and making decisions on important matters. All-circles assemblies were called in the 71 hsien of the province and a system of agricultural associations established throughout the various ch'u and villages. As a result, the rent-reduction movement spread rapidly in February - March 1950. Laxity is still apparent in a few areas, but is in the process of being corrected.

NORTH GETS HEAVY RAINFALL -- Tientsin Jih-pao, 9 Apr 50

Peiping, 7 April (Hsin-hua) -- Heavy spring downpours brought from one to 4 inches of rainfall to Hopeh, Shantung, Pingyuan, Chahar, Suiyuan, and Honan provinces between the last 10 days of March and the beginning of April. The general precipitation, heavier than in 1949, should benefit spring wheat and the planting schedule. In Hopeh, the special districts of Han-tan, Hsing-t'ai, Ting-hsien, Shih-chia-chuang, Pao-ting, and Heng-shui received from one to 4 inches of rain on 24 and 25 March; a continuous downpour on 2 and 3 April brought over 4 inches to the special district of T'ung-hsien. In its first spring rain, the Chi-nan district of Shantung received 3 to 4 inches during the last 10 days of March. On 25 and 26 March, there were general rains throughout Pingyuan; about 4 inches fell in Ho-tse, Liao-ch'eng, P'u-yang, and Hsin-chiang. On 3 April, rain fell steadily for 6 hours in Chahar. Nearly 2 ts'un /one ts'un is 1.4 inches/ of rain fell on 3 and 4 April in the Kuei-sui area of Suiyuan Province. In Honan, it rained continuously for several days prior to 5 April and the total precipitation amounted to over 4 ts'un.

Consequently, the people in these various areas are busy weeding wheat, doing their spring planting, and planting cotton. Barring unforeseen calamities, the summer yield is expected to be rich.

GOVERNMENT AIDS COTTON, HEMP PLANTING -- Peiping Jen-min Jih-pao, 11 Apr 50

Various local governments in both the Northwest, and Central and Southern China regions are conducting extensive drives to help farmers make preparations for the spring planting of cotton and hemp. The Agriculture and Forestry Department of the Central and Southern China region, hoping to produce 24,600,000 piculs /one picul equals 133 1/2 pounds/ of cotton in 1950, organized four agricultural advisory units, each consisting of several agricultural technicians, and dispatched them to Honan, Hupeh, Kiangsi, and Hunan provinces to direct cotton planting.

In Hupeh Province, the Agricultural Department is planning to restore to cotton growing 4,770,000 mou /one mou equals 1/6 acre/ along the Yangtse and the Han rivers, and to plant 210,000 mou in the Ching-chou (Chiang-ling), Hsiang-yang, Mien-yang, and Hsiao-kan areas with the best grade of cottonseed available in Shanghai.

Kiangsi Province has already purchased and distributed 2,000 piculs of the best-grade cottonseed to the P'eng-tse and Chiu-chiang areas. This province is also trying to regain its former hemp output, and is planning to plant 50,000 mou in the I-ch'un area. It has bought 30,000 catties of the best-grade hemp seed from Chekiang Province, and loaned it to various hemp-producing areas.

Honan province has loaned 600,000 catties of the best-grade cottonseed to the cotton-producing areas of Shen-chou, Lo-yang, Nan-yang, and Shang-ch'iu, and is planning to plant 180,000 mou of cotton throughout the province.

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The Agriculture Department of the Northwest has already completed extensive preparations for cotton planting. It has purchased 26,400 piculs of cottonseed and 2,000 tons of ammonium sulfate chemical fertilizer, and loaned them to the farmers. An additional 1,000 tons of the same type of fertilizer is to be purchased from the Ministry of Agriculture for distribution within its region. Six advisory units were organized to distribute seed and fertilizer and to direct planting of cotton and hemp.

CHEKIANG TO PLANT MORE COTTON AND HEMP -- Hangchow Chekiang Jih-pao, 11 Apr 50

Hsiao-shan, 5 April -- Farmers in the vicinity of Hsiao-shan, Chekiang, are to plant more of their sandy soil in cotton and hemp. At first, when urged to do so by local cadres, even with the offer of seed and fertilizer, the farmers were disinclined to comply because they claimed that previously the KMT authorities had deliberately depressed the prices of cotton and hemp paid to farmers at harvest time, so that they were unprofitable crops.

After assurance by the cadres that the People's government would never do such a thing as that, and an explanation of the great need for cotton and hemp in an industrial economy, the farmers agreed to raise more cotton and hemp, and appointed a committee of their own trustworthy men to inspect the handling of the seed and fertilizer to prevent its diversion to other purposes.

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